

In the first of Sænger's cases, already alluded to, the origin was a traumatic perforation leading to the peritonitis. Professor Leyden alludes to the possibility of perforation of the appendix vermiformis, being followed by similar consequences in the shape of ulcers, but remarks that hitherto no example has been reported. I submit that the case I have just related furnishes the necessary instance. The origin of the gas contained in the abscess cavities under consideration is a point of considerable interest. That it must be derived from the lung or bowel in the case of communication of these viscera with the abscess cavity is evident. On the other hand, that the generation of gas from the putrifying fluid contents of the cavity does furnish a part must be admitted, as it certainly does in true pyopneumothorax. In my own case the supervention of tympanitic percussion note where previously the note was dull, immediately after the bronchial fistula was established, seems to prove that the origin of the gas was in the first instance from the external air through the lung.

The complete displacement of the right lobe of the liver from a position where it could be percussed or palpated, constitutes an interesting point of difference between my case and those reported by other observers. It was doubtless due to the origin of the abscess below and its peculiar course upwards behind the peritoneum.

The following, according to Prof. Leyden, are the points which, when available, will clearly establish the diagnosis between true pyopneumothorax and these gaseous and liquid accumulations beneath the diaphragm:—

1. The development of an illness following the subsidence of the phenomena of general peritonitis, as from perforation.
2. The formation of an exudation in the lower part of the chest, on either side, with symptoms of inflammation, pain, and fever, &c., but specially characterized by the absence of cough and expectoration.
3. Appearance of physical signs of pyopneumothorax in the lower part of the chest, tympanitic note down to the lower edges